

Appl. No. 09/911,034
Amdt. Dated September 30, 2005
Reply to Office action of June 30, 2005
Attorney Docket No. P12877
EUS/J/P/05-6176

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1.) Claim Amendments

The Applicant has amended Claims 1, 3, 9, 11-13, 16, 18, 20 and 22; Claims 2, 10 and 17 have been cancelled. Applicant respectfully submits no new matter has been added. Accordingly, Claims 1, 3-9, 11-16 and 18-22 are pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

2.) Examiner Objections - Claims

The Examiner objected to Claim 22 because of informalities. The Applicant appreciates the Examiner's thorough review of the claims. The Applicant has amended the claim as suggested by the Examiner in order to correct the informalities. The Examiner's consideration of the amended claim is respectfully requested.

3.) Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner objected to Claims 1-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Again, the Applicant extremely appreciates the Examiner's thorough review of the claims and has amended those claims to overcome the Examiner's objections. A favorable reconsideration in view of the above amendments is respectfully requested.

4.) Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a)

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 6-13, and 16-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miller et al (US 6,324,183) in view of Oguchi (2002/0023152). In that regard, the Applicant agrees with the Examiner in that the Miller reference discloses signaling transfer points (STPs) acting as a gateway for connecting an SS7 network with an IP network. More specifically, Miller discloses that "an STP including an STP IP gateway can become a router for communicating messages among SPs in an SS7 network, between SPs in an SS7 network and nodes in an IP network, and

Appl. No. 09/911,034
Amdt. Dated September 30, 2005
Reply to Office action of June 30, 2005
Attorney Docket No. P12677
EUS/JP/05-6176

among nodes in an IP network" (Miller, Col. 9, lines 15-22). However, when acting as a "router" for communicating SS7 messages, nothing in Miller discloses using a packet based communication network between two SS7 nodes for communicating SS7 signals therebetween. For example, the communication between SP1 and SP2 of Fig. 16 in Miller discloses all of the communications being performed over the SS7 networks with the STP acting as the router.

However, in accordance with the teachings of the present invention and further claimed in independent Claim 1, a packet based communication network is used for communicating SS7 signal transmitted from a local switch connected to a SS7 network to a destination node further connected to another SS7 network. In order to eliminate the need to change or alter the existing local switches, after receiving the SS7 signal from the local switch, an associated STP transparently makes a determination as to which network to use for further transmitting the received SS7 signal. In accordance with the present invention, the claimed STP includes two different routing tables. The first routing table is for determining routing mechanism within the SS7 telecommunications network. The second routable table is for determining routing mechanism within the packet communication network. A processor within the STP then determines whether the destination address specified by the received SS7 signal is specified within the second routing table (packet network routing table). If the destination address is indeed specified in the second routing table, the destination node is then reachable or routable over a packet communication network using the IP address specified therein. The present invention then uses the IP address specified in the second routing table to transmit the received SS7 signal encapsulated within an IP packet over a packet communication network. On the other hand, if the destination address is not specified within the second routing table, as further claimed in dependent Claim 4, the processor within the STP then relies on the first routing table (SS7 network routing table) to transmit the received SS7 signal over the SS7 telecommunication network.

Applicant respectfully submits that other than showing an STP acting as a router between SS7 networks and between a SS7 network and an IP network, Miller fails to

Appl. No. 09/811,034
Amtd. Dated September 30, 2005
Reply to Office action of June 30, 2005
Attorney Docket No. P12877
EUS/J/P/05-6176

disclose how to make the determination to route an SS7 signal between a first SS7 telecommunication node and a second SS7 telecommunication node over a packet based communication network. As a matter of facts, Miller simply fails to disclose how those IP addresses are even obtained by the STP IP Gateway. Furthermore, nothing in Miller discloses the process of selecting a particular network (IP or SS7) to further transmit the received SS7 signals. Lastly, Miller does not disclose or teach two different routing tables to enable the STP to selectively decide and to transmit SS7 signals over a packet communication network as well as an SS7 network. Additionally, other than disclosing a relay system within a packet based communication network, Oguchi likewise fails to anticipate or render obvious the presently pending independent Claim 1.

As a result, Miller and Oguchi fail to anticipate or render obvious the presently pending independent Claim 1. Claims 3-8 dependent on now allowable independent Claim 1 and recite additional limitations thereto. For example, dependent Claim 7 recites further limitation that the second routing table comprises an IP address table for identifying a particular STP serving a destination local switch associated with the specified destination address. Accordingly, the packet based communication is performed between two STPs serving the origination and the destination SS7 switches. Applicant submits that nothing in Miller or Oguchi discloses two STPs communicating SS7 signals over a packet based communication network as claimed herein.

As a result, independent Claim 1 and its dependent claims are now all in condition for allowance.

Applicant further submits that independent Claims 9 and 16 recite similar limitations as provided above for independent Claim 1. Therefore, for at least the same reasons as provided above, independent Claims 9 and 16 and their respective dependent claims are further in condition for allowance. The Examiner's favorable reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims is therefore earnestly requested.

Appl. No. 09/911,034
Amtd. Dated September 30, 2005
Reply to Office action of June 30, 2005
Attorney Docket No. P12677
EUS/J/P/05-6176

5.) Prior Art Not Relied Upon

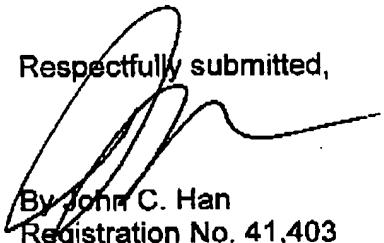
In paragraph 7 of the Office Action, the Examiner stated that the prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to the Applicant's disclosure.

Appt. No. 09/911,034
Arndt. Dated September 30, 2005
Reply to Office action of June 30, 2005
Attorney Docket No. P12677
EUS/JP/05-6176

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicant believes all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.

The Applicant requests a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would further or expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,

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